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c. 1965/02/00

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Saigon -- Who Does What

On the assumption that the cast of characters is

McG. Bundy	McNaughton
Colby	Gaud
Corcoran	CLC

I suggest an order of march along these lines:

McG. Bundy - private session with Taylor on delicate question of his own tenure and anything else Taylor or Bundy want to unload in privacy.

McG. Bundy - some quiet time with Taylor, Johnson and Westmoreland to discuss inter alia President's current mood and thoughts, evacuation, their views of where we're headed and thoughts on future course (in event we have a government and in event we don't). McNaughton and self should attend as observers.

McG. Bundy - see Oahn, Khanh, Vien and possibly Tri Quang. Who should participate from Mission, I'd leave up to Taylor; who from Washington should participate is up to you -- probably no one. (Note - It may be that Taylor will feel that you should not talk to the Buddhists. In that case, I suggest I -- perhaps with Corcoran who was out there and has dealt with them -- should see them.)

- McG. Bundy (or, as a poor second, CLC) should meet with

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second echelon level of Mission for pep and morale session (Mission staff meeting?).

McG. Bundy should attend Mission-Council session where pacification progress is discussed -- to get a feel for US-GVN contacts, to see some of the other generals in action, to get a sense of how the joint enterprise is going. McNaughton, Gaud, and Cooper should observe, if there's room.

McG. Bundy should try to squeeze at least a half-day out of Saigon (if you've got the time it is feasible, useful, and even refreshing).

McNaughton should concentrate on MACV problems, security situation and, in particular, the matter the President raised with McNamara -- streamlining U.S. forces. He should also get a better reading on why we can't get much closer control over GVN planning of large-scale military ops. Finally, he should, together with CLC, get a better feel for how Third Country military assistance will be handled.

Gaud's tasks are fairly cleancut. But, in addition to the business he may have in mind, I'd like to get a reading on Third Country non-military aid and you should get a reading of Killem's effectiveness in the current situation.

Colby - In addition to the quiet private business he inevitably has with his own people, he should try to see as many of his old Army contacts as

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he can to obtain a feel for their views and intentions. Colby also has some special ties with the Catholic groups and he should follow up with these. Finally, he should make a special effort to look into his student assets.

Corcoran - Should concentrate on working-level Embassy problems -- reporting, evacuation planning (he's cut in), personnel. He might also be useful in reviewing some old ties he has with some Vietnamese -- in and out of the government.

CLC - In addition to tasks already identified and ad hoc jobs you may assign on the fly, should squeeze in time for quiet talks on where-we-are, where-we're-heading with thoughtful second and third level Mission types and see one or two old Viet friends.

Alice - Sightseeing, shopping, swimming.

NOTE:

1. You should discourage formal briefings -- especially from MACV. McNaughton should pick up whatever is necessary or can't be avoided. This is not to say that an hour's bull session with Stillwell (COS) and Dupuy (J-3) wouldn't be worthwhile.
2. You may have to meet with the press. Perhaps not a bad idea, in the sense that there will be speculation and rumors and it will be good to set the boys straight.
3. Someone (McNaughton?) might drop in on military hospital.

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4. How about an hour with student leaders (i. e. , the reasonably reasonable types)?

5. We should discourage, if humanly possible, large-scale ceremonial or social affairs -- they are a waste of time and, more importantly, inconsistent with the mood we want to establish re evacuation.

But 6. I know a damn good Chinese restaurant.


Chester L. Cooper

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